

## IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of forming a molded plywood door skin,  
comprising the steps of:  
  
    providing a plywood board **having at least one ply of solid wood**;  
  
    conditioning the plywood board with water;  
  
    disposing the conditioned plywood board in a contoured mold press  
having a mold cavity; and  
  
    deforming the plywood board in the mold press using sufficient heat and  
pressure to form a molded plywood door skin having contoured portions  
corresponding to said mold cavity.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, including the step of closing the mold press at a  
predetermined closure rate.
3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined closure rate is  
between about 3 mm per minute and about 7 mm per minute.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning step includes  
exposing the plywood board to steam in an atmospheric chamber.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning step includes exposing the plywood board to steam in a pressurized, sealed cavity.
6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the plywood board is exposed to steam in the pressurized, sealed cavity for at least about 30 minutes during said conditioning step.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning step includes soaking the plywood board in a water bath.
8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the plywood board is soaked in the water bath for at least about 4 hours during said conditioning step.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning step includes exposing the plywood board to a surface spray.
10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said conditioning step further comprises using surfactants to achieve a desired moisture pick-up.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning step increases moisture content of the plywood board to between about 10% and about 40%.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plywood board is a luan plywood board.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plywood board includes an exterior ply of solid natural wood, and at least one interior core layer.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the interior core layer is selected from the group consisting of medium density fiberboard, chipboard, oriented strandboard, softboard, hardboard, and particleboard.

Claims 15-24 (canceled)

25. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said deforming step includes forming a molded plywood door skin having a substantially uniform thickness.

26. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said deforming step includes forming a molded plywood door skin having a substantially uniform density.